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**Arizona Water Initiative
West Basins Planning Area
Meeting Summary**

Date: October 5, 2016
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Location: Centennial Community Center
69725 Centennial Park Rd.
Wenden, AZ 85357
(928) 859-3069

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. ADWR Water Resource Specialist, Mandy Whatley, began the meeting with an overview of the agenda and announcements.
 - b. Announcements:
 - i. The Ranegras Plain Well Survey was completed in March 2016, the results are posted online [here](#).
 - ii. Well Site Inventories were completed in August 2016 in order to prepare for upcoming well basin surveys for McMullen Valley, Butler Valley, Ranegras Plain, and Harquahala Irrigation Non-Expansion Area in November 2016.
 - iii. The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) has received additional funding and will be able to perform additional free well assessments for Arizona residents throughout the year. RCAC will also be hosting well workshops for well owners throughout the year. For more information, click [here](#).
2. Presentation by Larry O'Daniel
 - a. Wenden Resident, Larry O'Daniel, presented a proposal for water harvesting in the McMullen Valley. Mr. O'Daniel proposed the following to harvest flood waters:
 - i. Rebuilding spreader dikes in Centennial Wash
 - ii. Rebuilding the Centennial Wash channel to a depth of 8 to 12 feet
 - iii. Building an underground storage facility (USF)

3. Final Municipal Water Demand Data and Projections
 - a. Ms. Whatley provided an update on the finalized municipal water demand projections.
 - b. The data was first discussed at the meeting on July 27, 2016, and multiple stakeholders commented that RV Parks were not taken into consideration for the municipal demand. Water use for RV Parks was estimated and added to the industrial water demand projections.
 - c. The Municipal Water Demand presentation can be found [here](#).
4. Discussion of Updated Industrial Water Demand and Projections
 - a. Ms. Whatley provided an update on the industrial water demand projections, including how data was collected, a list of industrial water users, water use associated with each type of use, and industrial demand projections.
 - b. A stakeholder asked for clarification on the difference between the industrial and agricultural sectors. Staff clarified that dairies, feedlots, and egg production facilities are included in the industrial sector while agriculture only includes irrigated agriculture.
 - c. Stakeholders commented that the Arizona Soils Compost Facility (Synagro) should be listed as an industrial user. Multiple stakeholders provided contact information for the facility.
 - d. A stakeholder asked if the water used for growing feed for the dairy cows was included in the water use for dairies. Staff clarified that water used for irrigating hay and corn fields will be included in the agricultural sector, and water use included in the industrial sector was for watering the cows, udder washing, etc.
 - e. A stakeholder commented that he thought the number of cows for each dairy complex was low, and that the number of cows was likely closer to 9,000 per complex. He also commented that 105 gallons/cow/day seemed low.
 - f. A stakeholder commented that ranching should be listed as a use.
 - g. A stakeholder commented that rock production (sand and gravel) should be listed as a use.
 - h. There were multiple questions regarding groundwater transportation. More information regarding groundwater transportation can be found [here](#) (see Chapter 2, Articles 8 and 8.1).
 - i. Stakeholders mentioned that additional egg production facilities and a solar plant in the Ranegras Plain Basin should be included as industrial users.
 - j. Stakeholders may submit additional information regarding industrial demand through October 31, 2016 to Mandy Whatley at mawhatley@azwater.gov or 602-771-4713. ADWR staff will incorporate information from the discussion during the meeting and any additional information received post-meeting. Staff will then finalize the industrial projections and present the finalized data at the next meeting.
 - k. The Industrial Water Demand presentation can be found [here](#).
5. Discussion of Management Options
 - a. Stakeholders broke out into small groups to discuss potential management options.
 - b. The management options handout can be found [here](#).
 - c. Stakeholders presented the following feedback:

- i. The definition of irrigated land as the application of water to *2 or more* acres of land for growing crops or pasture should be changed to application of water to *20 or more* acres of land for growing crops or pasture. This would allow small family farms to expand while regulating much larger farming operations.
- ii. Institution of withdrawal fees for non-exempt wells (pumping capacity greater than 35 gpm) as a way to mitigate impacts to exempt wells (pumping capacity 35 gpm or less) should be included.
- iii. The definition of irrigated land as application of water to *2 or more* acres of land for growing crops or pasture should be maintained.
- iv. The grandfathered acres clause should be revised. The nature of revisions was not discussed.
- v. A clause that ends regulation in the area once management goals are reached should be included.
- d. Time expired so stakeholders were unable to complete discussing all four topics (limitation on irrigated acres, metering and reporting requirements, well regulations, and conservation requirements). Discussion will be continued at the next meeting (date TBD).

6. General Comment

- a. Stakeholders commented that ADWR discussions regarding rising water levels near the alfalfa farms in Ranegras Plain was inappropriate as the majority of well water levels are actually declining.
- b. Stakeholders stated that they appreciate the work being done by staff to update the water demand data.

7. Closing Remarks

- a. Ms. Whatley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their active participation in discussions.
- b. At the next meeting staff will discuss the finalized industrial demand projections, begin discussion on agricultural demand projections, and continue the management options discussion.